



(217)782-5544

April 7, 1987

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



383716

Ms. Percy Angelo
Mayer, Brown & Platt
190 South LaSalle Street
Chicago, Illinois 60603

Re: Allsteel Inc.

Dear Ms. Angelo:

I am in receipt of your letter of March 5, 1987 regarding the Voluntary cleanup being conducted at the Allsteel facility. This letter is being written to address the concerns raised in your letter.

The Agency recognizes the cleanup being performed at the Allsteel facility as a voluntary cleanup. The 4(q) Notice that was issued does not change the voluntary nature of the work performed at the site.

As stated on our meeting of February 18, 1987, the 4(q) Notice was issued to enable the Agency to continue cleanup work at the site if for some reason the cleanup work wasn't completed by Allsteel, Inc. At this point, the Agency has no reason to believe that Allsteel will not complete the work begun at the site. The Agency acknowledges the cooperation shown by the Allsteel people. The Agency, however, must make sure that environmental problems are addressed and properly dealt with. That is why the Agency requests to review and approve the work to be performed at a site. The Agency has a duty to see to it that environmental problems are properly addressed. The Agency also has an obligation to insure the public, especially those that may be affected by a release to the environment, that the problem will be properly addressed.

The Agency's review and approval of the work to be performed also makes it easier for the Agency to give its final approval upon completion of a cleanup.

The 4(q) Notice that was issued to Allsteel was based upon information submitted by Allsteel to the Agency. Again, I wish to state that the 4(q) Notice did not alter the voluntary nature of the cleanup.

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The 4 (q) Notice gives the responsible party or parties notice of what the Agency expects with regard to the cleanup. At any site, any work performed that is not done in conformance with the requirements of the 4(q) Notice is done at the responsible party's own risk. If the work is not done in conformance with the 4(q) Notice, the possibility exists that the Agency may have to redo some or all of the work. The Agency doesn't want that to occur.

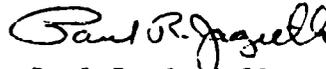
I understand that work is progressing at the Allsteel site. Everything appears to be going well.

The common goal of Allsteel and the Agency is to correct the problems existing at the Allsteel facility. We both want it done as quickly, effectively and efficiently as possible.

Your letter also sets forth deficiencies in the Agency's 4(q) Notice that you believe exist. Allsteel and the Agency have differing positions regarding the adequacy of the 4(q) Notice and I don't believe that we would ever resolve our differences in correspondence.

Please contact me at (217)782-5544 if you have any questions or if you wish to discuss this further.

Sincerely yours,



Paul R. Jagiello
Attorney
Enforcement Programs

PRJ:mm
cc: Dennis Newman